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Ministerio dos Negocios Estrangeiros

Departamento da Cifra

TELEGRAMA RECEBIDO

DA MISSAO DE PORTUGAL JUNTO

PESC/SECRETARIADO

Nr. 868

COREU/U

7029

26.07.96

17.17

Atribuição:	PESC	SAO	EXT				25/07/96
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THE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITS THE FOLLOWING :

SUBJECT : COASI : ASEAN PMC 7+1 (JAKARTA, 25 JULY 1996)

THE MEETING WAS CO-CHAIRED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRELAND DICK SPRING AND THE SINGAPORIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JAYAKUMAR

SUMMARY

BOTH SIDES HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ASEM FOLLOW-UP AND ON FUTURE EU-ASEAN RELATIONS. THE INDONESIAN MINISTER ALATAS RAISED IN THIS CONTEXT THE QUESTION OF TIMOR.

DETAIL

- ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

MINISTER JAKAKUMAR OF SINGAPORE REVIEWED THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE BANGKOK ASEM, RECALLING SEVERAL INITIATIVES IN PARTICULAR. THE EU AND THE ASIAN COUNTRIES OF ASEM WOULD CONTINUE TO CO-ORDINATE IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT WITH A VIEW TO THE LONDON ASEM IN 1998, AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SINGAPORE IN FEBRUARY 1997.

- 12TH ASEAN-EU MINISTERIAL MEETING (AEMM) IN SINGAPORE / FUTURE DIRECTION OF ASEAN-EU RELATIONS

THESE WAS A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE EPG REPORT AND THE RECENT COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS ON ASEAN-EU RELATIONS.

COMMUNICATION FOLLOWING ASEAN REQUESTS ON EU INITIATIVES FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, OR REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GULF STATES, MERCOSUR, MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED TWO OPTIONS. THE FIRST OPTION WAS TO AMEND AND EXTEND THE 1980 EC ASEN AGREEMENT AND THE SECOND FOR A MORE LOOSER FORM OF COOPERATION. THE COMMISSION HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FIRST OPTION WOULD MEET WITH POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES DUE TO THE POSITION OF SOME MEMBER STATES IN THE UNION OF THE KIND ENCOUNTERED AT EARLIER EU ASEAN MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS (LUXEMBOURG, MANILA). CONSEQUENTLY THE SECOND MORE FLEXIBLE OPTION APPEARED TO BE MORE REALISTIC. IT WAS MODELED ON THE TRANSATLANTIC AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MARIN ALSO MADE A BRIEF REFERENCE TO MYANMAR SAYING THAT HE HOPED TO AVOID NEW POTENTIAL FOR DISPUTE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL HAD NOT YET BEEN EXAMINED IN THE COUNCIL BODIES. THE DISCUSSION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE AUTUMN.

MINISTER ALATAS FROM INDONESIA APPRECIATED THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS FOR TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION CAUSED BY THE VETOING OF THE 1992 AGREEMENT PROPOSAL. WITH A SENSE OF RESIGNATION, INDONESIA WAS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE SUGGESTED SECOND OPTION., ALTHOUGH IT WAS A FACT THAT ASEAN WAS THE ONLY REGIONAL GROUPING WITH WHICH THE EU DIDN'T HAVE A MODERN AGREEMENT. EVERYONE WAS PERFECTLY AWARE OF THE REASON FOR THIS., INDONESIA CONSIDERED THAT THE ISSUE BETWEEN JAKARTA AND LISBON SHOULD NOT BE MIXED UP WITH THE EU-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE UN FRAMEWORK. INDONESIA WAS NOT TRYING TO SWEEP THE TIMOR ISSUE UNDER THE CARPET BUT CONSIDERED THAT ONE SHOULD TRY TO OVERCOME THE SITUATION WHICH WAS A BLOCKAGE TO OUR EXPANDING RELATIONS.

ANNEX

ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE 7+1

JAKARTA, 25 JULY 1996

OPENING REMARKS BY MR DICK SPRING T.D., TANAISTE (DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER) AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRELAND, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

EXCELLENCY, PROFESSOR JAYAKUMAR

LAST WEEK IN STRASBOURG, IN MY ADDRESS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE PRIORITIES FOR IRELAND'S EU PRESIDENCY IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1996, I INDICATED THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION WILL CONTINUE TO ACCORD A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH ASIA. IN THIS CONNECTION THE EUROPEAN

UNION ACCORDS GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE EVER DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EU/ASEAN RELATIONSHIP IS EVIDENCED BY THE INCREASED LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN RECENT YEARS. THE ENDING OF THE EAST-WEST RIVALRY IN EUROPE, THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASEAN COUNTRIES AND THE CHANGING ARCHITECTURE OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAS CAUSED BOTH REGIONS TO REEVALUATE THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONS. THE EU/ASEAN KARLSRUHE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1994 PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS PROCESS.

SINCE OUR LAST MEETING IN AUGUST 1995, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS HAS DEEPENED FURTHER WITH THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EUROPE ASIA MEETING (ASEM) IN BANGKOK IN MARCH 1996. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THIS MEETING WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS., AND I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY DUE TRIBUTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE, MR GOH CHOK TONG, WHO INITIATED THE IDEA FOR THE HOLDING OF AN ASEM FOR HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS PROVED SO INVALUABLE IN BRINGING OUR REGIONS CLOSER TOGETHER IN SO MANY DIFFERENT FIELDS. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN AND THE FIRST SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT IS TAKING PLACE IN BRUSSELS TODAY. THE WORKING GROUP ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION HAS ALREADY MET AND IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE MORE MEETINGS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. A EUROPE ASIA BUSINESS FORUM WILL TAKE PLACE IN PARIS IN OCTOBER AND A SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING IS BEING ORGANISED BY THE EU PRESIDENCY IN DUBLIN, ON 20 DECEMBER 1996, TO PREPARE FOR THE ASEM MINISTERIAL IN SINGAPORE IN FEBRUARY 1997.

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THE SECRETARIAT TRANSMITS THE FOLLOWING :

SUBJECT : COASI : ASEAN PMC 7+1 (JAKARTA, 25 JULY 1996)

IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT WE SEE THE ASEM PROCESS AS COMPLEMENTING AND NOT REPLACING THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY IN PLACE FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ASEAN. HOWEVER, THERE IS A RISK OF OVERLAP BETWEEN EU/ASEAN AND ASEM AND WE WILL NEED TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER VERY CAREFULLY TO

ENSURE A COHERENT AND CLEAR APPROACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOALS IN THE EU/ASEAN RELATIONSHIP AND ASEM.

THE VALUE OF THE EU/ASEAN RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE IN JAKARTA IN RECENT DAYS. THE FREE-WHEELING EXCHANGES WHICH WE HAVE HAD IN THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SESSIONS PROVED TO BE MOST VALUABLE. THE INITIATIVE OF ASEAN IN INSTITUTING THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM IN BANGKOK IN 1994 HAS PROVEN ITS WORTH AND THE EUROPEAN UNION HOPES THAT THE DISCUSSIONS IN THIS FORUM WILL ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION OF THE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND SECURITY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. YESTERDAY, WE COVERED A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WITH ALL THE DIALOGUE PARTNERS.

IN THIS PARTICULAR FORUM THE ASEAN 7+1 MEETING, I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO A FEW SPECIFIC MATTERS:

(1) 12TH EU/ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING (AEMM) IN SINGAPORE IN FEBRUARY 1997

THE EUROPEAN UNION WISHES TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS PRAGMATIC AND FRIENDLY COOPERATIONS WITH ASEAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1980 AGREEMENT AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS IN SINGAPORE NEXT FEBRUARY.

I SHOULD LIKE TO RECALL THAT THE IRISH EU PRESIDENCY HAS SCHEDULED AN EU/ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING IN DUBLIN ON 19 DECEMBER 1996 INTER ALIA IN ORDER TO PREPARE THOROUGHLY FOR THE SINGAPORE AEMM. THE EU PRESIDENCY ENVISAGES THE PREPARATIONS OF THE EU POSITION ON THE AEMM IN AUTUMN AND I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF YOU MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE A DRAFT AGENDA AND POSSIBLY EVEN AN OUTLINE OF ANY PROPOSED DRAFT CONCLUSIONS/PRESS COMMUNIQUE AS SOON AS MAY BE POSSIBLE IN THE AUTUMN. THE EUROPEAN UNION IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE TWO PRESIDENCIES MIGHT AT A LATTER STAGE LOOK AT ANY POSSIBLE RISK OF DUPLICATION IN PREPARING FOR THE EU/ASEN AND ASEM MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE TO HELD BACK-TO-BACK IN SINGAPORE IN FEBRUARY 1997, WHERE SOME OVERLAPPING OF SUBJECT-MATTER INEVITABLY ARISES IN ORDER TO SEE HOW ANY POSSIBLE DUPLICATION MIGHT BE AVOIDED OR AT LEAST MINIMIZED.

(2) FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF EU/ASEAN RELATIONS

THIS AUTUMN, A NEW EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON FUTURE EU/ASEAN RELATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED FOLLOWING THE EXPECTED FORMAL TRANSMISSION OF THIS COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

(3) EU/ASEAN EMINENT PERSONS' GROUP REPORT

I WELCOME THE REPORT OF THE EMINENT PERSONS' GROUP (EPG) 'A STRATEGY FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP' BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED AT THE 11TH EU/ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KARLSRUHE (22/24 SEPTEMBER 1994). THE REPORT IS TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE. I AGREE WITH THE BROAD THRUST OF THE

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT IN RELATION TO TRADE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. THIS IS BUT A PRELIMINARY REACTION. THE REPORT DESERVES A THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND THIS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE SIDE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH A VIEW TO A COMPREHENSIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE REPORT AT THE EU/ASEAN DUBLIN SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING ON 19 DECEMBER 1996. THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS HAS CONFERRED NEW RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION. AS WE PREPARE FOR THE FIRST WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION MINISTERIAL REVIEW CONFERENCE, IN SINGAPORE, IN DECEMBER 1996, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH OF OUR REGIONS SHOULD COOPERATE CLOSELY TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE CONFERENCE.

FINALLY, MAY I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU, PROFESSOR JAYKUMAR, FOR THE EFFORTS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE, INCLUDING YOUR VISIT TO IRELAND IN RECENT MONTHS, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION. I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE IN THIS ROLE FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME YET. IN ADDITION, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS ALSO TO INDONESIA FOR SO ABLY CHAIRING THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM AND THE PLENARY ASEAN POST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. FURTHER, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH MALAYSIA, WHICH IS TO

ASSUME THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASEAN IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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